



Beautiful BIBLE TREASURES For Children

Lesson 49

Level A—Little Bible Treasures:

A Good Heart

Level B—Children's Bible Treasures:

A Good Heart

Level C—Story Time with Jesus:

A Good Heart

Level D—What Does it Actually Say?:

A Good Heart

Level E—Bible Bits: Songs in the Bible /

Topic Treasures— Getting Alone with God

A Good Heart

One day God said that it was time to prepare someone else to be the new king, as King Saul had stopped obeying what God said to do. He had become too proud.

There was a young man named David who was watching over the sheep. He and his family were invited to a feast with Samuel, where God said that David was to be the new king after King Saul. Even though David's brothers were strong, tall and handsome, God said that the most important thing for a king to have is a good heart.

David's heart was humble and obedient, and he loved God very much and wanted to please Him. God looks at people's hearts and is glad to find those whose hearts are filled with love and who want to follow in His way.

Samuel poured oil on David to demonstrate that he was chosen by God to do an important job, and that God's Spirit would be with him. David was chosen then, but he had many more years to prepare for his new job of being a king later on.



A Good Heart

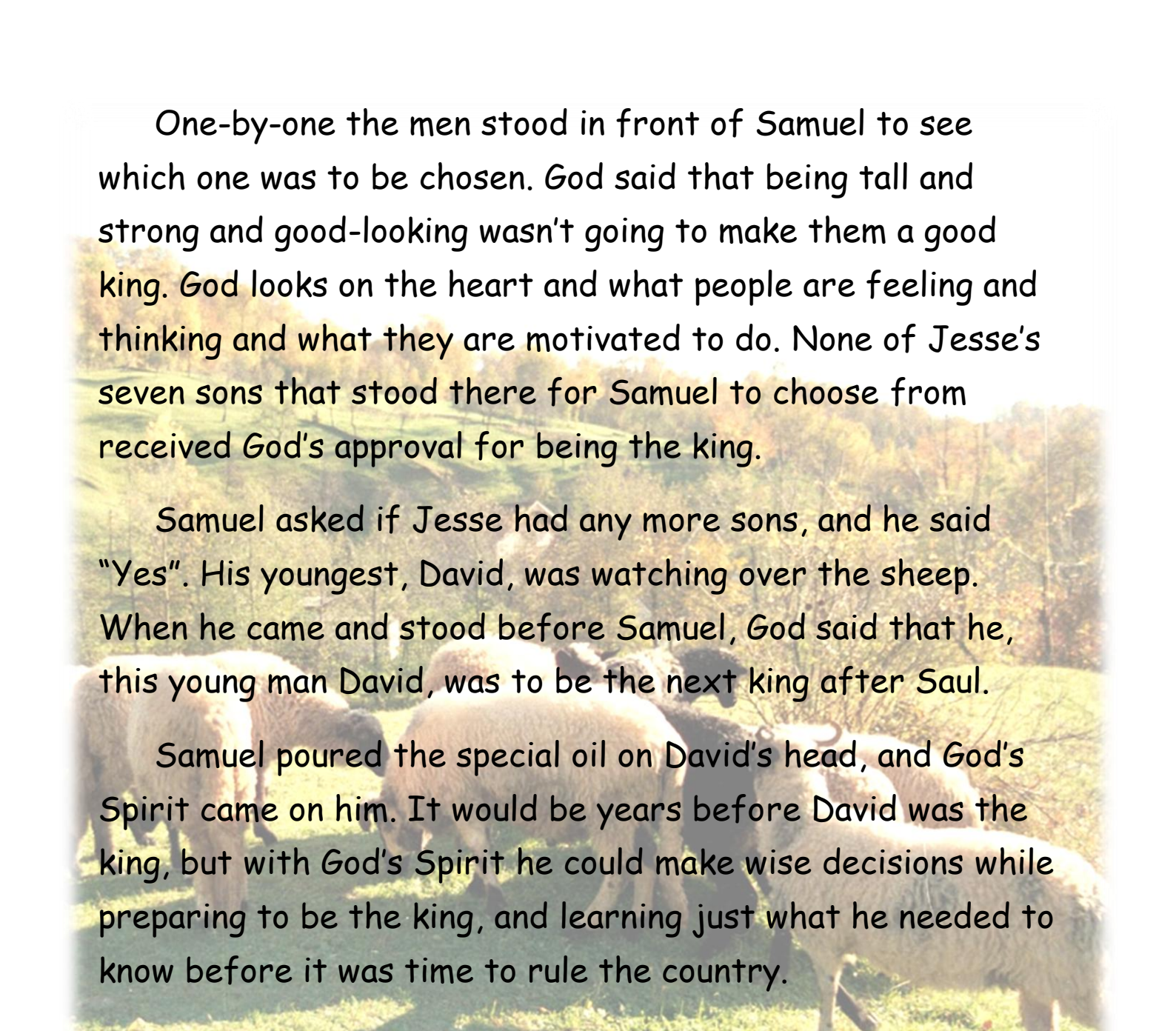
It was a big job for Saul to be the king, and one thing you really need if you are the king is faith. However, instead of having the faith to obey the Lord's instructions, Saul chose rather to do the things that others thought were best.

He disobeyed what God, through Samuel the prophet, said for him to do. If he'd had more faith and trust in God's plan and care, then he would have been more obedient to God's words.

Because Saul did what others said to do, out of fear or worry, rather than what God asked him to, it displeased God and showed a lack of faith in Him. Samuel needed to find someone else to be the king; someone who would do what God asked them to do.

God told Samuel that one of Jesse's sons in Bethlehem was to eventually be the new king. Samuel invited Jesse and all his grown sons to a feast.





One-by-one the men stood in front of Samuel to see which one was to be chosen. God said that being tall and strong and good-looking wasn't going to make them a good king. God looks on the heart and what people are feeling and thinking and what they are motivated to do. None of Jesse's seven sons that stood there for Samuel to choose from received God's approval for being the king.

Samuel asked if Jesse had any more sons, and he said "Yes". His youngest, David, was watching over the sheep. When he came and stood before Samuel, God said that he, this young man David, was to be the next king after Saul.

Samuel poured the special oil on David's head, and God's Spirit came on him. It would be years before David was the king, but with God's Spirit he could make wise decisions while preparing to be the king, and learning just what he needed to know before it was time to rule the country.

Activity

*Make a little model display on a tray or in a box, of a scene from this story. Perhaps David talking with prophet Samuel, and some sheep nearby. Use clothes pins for people. Clip on a paper face, wrap on some cloth for clothes, and use some wire or pipe cleaners for the arms. Use lumps of clay or play dough to secure the figures' leg to the tray or box. Put dirt, grass turf, or sand for the ground all around. Make some stand-up sheep by folding over a piece of white card paper and cutting out the shape of a standing sheep—on each side of the fold there will be a pair of legs, and thus the sheep stands. Hillside scenery could be drawn on paper and propped up at the back of the box or tray.

A Good Heart



If I see that a person loves me with all their heart, that is the most beautiful thing to Me. I love those that love Me. I'm near to those that are near to Me.

It doesn't matter how many mistakes you make or what you look like, if you love Me with your heart, your mind, and your soul, and you love My words, then to Me you are the most beautiful or handsome person you could be.

God loved King Saul and wanted him to be close to him. But it was hard for Saul to respect and put God and His will above what the people were saying and pressuring him to do. He wanted to be well thought of and respected.

However, in this world where you now live, that just doesn't work. Either, I will be first in your life and you will choose to please Me most of all, or you will try to please others and give their ideas preference above Mine. It can be real tough at times to make those choices to obey what I say to do, when others aren't supportive of your decisions and are trying to get to you to do something different.

Saul was having a hard time. He was trying to please both God and the people. He was trying to do a good job, but when there was a choice to do what Samuel the Prophet told him that God wanted him to do, or to do what people were pressuring him to do, then he chose to please the people.

When he started off being the king, he wasn't very confident in himself and not everyone was pleased that he was the king. So, to try to

make people glad to have him as their king, he sometimes would do what they wanted, even when God, through Samuel, said to do something else. He obeyed part of the way, but not all the way. However, part-way disobedience is still disobedience and doesn't bring the full blessing.

It's like someone telling the police who stopped them for driving too fast, "But I was driving on the correct side of the road, and I even had my seatbelt on!" Well, that's good, but it wouldn't be good enough and could cause a bad accident if they were still going faster than the speed limit. Full obedience to God brings full blessings.

Saul needed faith—faith to not let the stress of the difficult situations that the people were in, to affect him to the point that he just made sudden decisions and quickly did whatever seemed good at the time. He needed faith that God was in control and would work things out for them.

If he listened to God's instructions and followed through on them, no matter what was going on around him, things would be much better than if he just did what seemed good at the time. He needed faith that God would let him continue to be the king if he followed and obeyed God's words, rather than worrying that the people wouldn't want him to be the king if he didn't do what they wanted him to do.

Because Saul chose to listen and do what the people said he should, rather than staying true to God's words, this made him unable to be the kind of king God needed him to be. At first he started off in humility and was much more obedient to God's ways and His instructions. However, later he began to listen more to the words of the people and chose to do what he thought would make them like him better, instead of doing what God said to do.

One sad night God talked to Samuel about it. Samuel was a man who put God's Words and his closeness with God above being liked by people on

Earth. He spoke the truth and passed on God's Words no matter how difficult it was. Samuel knew and realised that he wasn't the one in charge, but was as a servant, doing things the way God wanted them done. He was to be a voice to say what God wanted the people to hear.

The situations that people got themselves into weren't easy, and the solutions weren't easy. So even if some of God's Words and counsel was hard to receive, to tell people about, and to do, putting God's Words into action was a lot easier than experiencing the problems that would come to those who chose the proud way of the world around them.

God told Samuel that a new king would need to replace Saul. It was clear that Saul was no longer a suitable king as he wasn't making the right choices. Samuel cried for a long while and his heart was aching with sorrow as he talked with God about the situation. God was sad that Saul wasn't following Him, and Samuel felt the sadness of God's heart too.

It's disappointing when someone could do something great for God, but then miss their chance because of pride. Saul was proud and thought he could do a better job than doing what God said to do. He was proud when things went well and took the credit to himself. He thought it must be because he was a great guy.

Saul let pride and other sins into his heart and this made him lose the anointing for being a good king and ruling well for a long time. And his children and grandchildren would not have the chance to become kings after him either, due to his wrong example.



Getting proud thoughts when something goes well for you, instead of thanking Me for helping you, will make it go poorly for you the next time. It's like if a hose that sprayed out water began to think that it was amazing on its own. What if the hose broke away from the tap and said, "Look what a great job I did watering the garden! I don't need to be hooked up to that tap all the time. It stops me from moving too freely and going to all the places I'd like to go!"?

Well, that would be the last time water came out of it, right? The gardener needs the hose to help spray the water all over, but it will only work if it's hooked up to the tap, and water can pour through it.

That's a little example of what it was like for Saul. When he knew he couldn't do anything without God helping him, then he was the right one for the job. However, when he allowed pride and disobedience to God into his life then he couldn't help the people in the ways God needed him to.

Samuel travelled to pass on a message from God to Saul, and to let him know that he'd gotten too off track. Samuel explained, "When you were humble and didn't think greatly of yourself, that is when God called you to do a very important job. However, because you kept choosing to do things your own way and have been disobedient to His instructions, God will choose someone else to be the king instead."

Saul was very sorry then for his disobediences and wanted to make things right with God again. He and Samuel had some time to pray together. Saul was still the king for quite a while longer, until it was the right time for a new king to take the throne. God needed to prepare someone else for the job, and that would take time.

However, those next years of being a king were very hard, as his heart was sad, and he no longer had God's special power helping him. He'd missed being what he could have been. There was one more important job that God had for Saul however, and unbeknownst to him, he was going to

help play a part in training the new king a little while later. God had things all planned out.

God told Samuel where to go to find the person who was to be the new king—to Bethlehem. On the hillsides of Bethlehem was a humble shepherd boy. A young person who loved God and spent lots of time talking with Him and listening to His thoughts, would make a good new king.

Samuel was instructed by God just where to go and what to do. He held a feast and time of worship there in Bethlehem, and a man called Jesse and his family were invited. Before they ate the food, Samuel had a job to do. He held in his hands a horn of oil and was to anoint, or pour it on the head of the one that was to be the new king. God told him that one of Jesse's sons was to be the king, but exactly who it was to be, wasn't told Samuel yet.

"Have your sons come stand before me, one-by-one and I'll see which one God wants me to anoint," Samuel told Jesse. "We'll have the feast after I do that."

Starting with the oldest, they passed in front of Samuel. The oldest was good looking, tall and strong, and it reminded Samuel of Saul who was tall, and God had chosen him. But this time God had someone completely different in mind.

"No, he's not the one. I look on the heart, not on the outward appearance," God told Samuel.



Samuel motioned for the next son to come, and the next, and the next, until there were none left. Samuel was puzzled. He was to anoint one of Jesse's sons, but when they stood in front of him, God said none of them were to be the one.

"Do you have any other sons?" Samuel asked.

"Yes, the youngest, David. He's watching the sheep on the hill," Jesse said.

"Please call him! We won't eat until he comes here," Samuel asked.

Young and energetic David came as fast as he could, and as soon as Samuel saw him, God said that he was the one to be the new king.

David knelt down and Samuel poured the special oil on his head, and from that moment on God's Spirit came on him. Eventually he would be the king; later on when the time was right. A person with a good heart who loves God is better than the tallest, strongest, smartest or most good-looking person around.

Activity

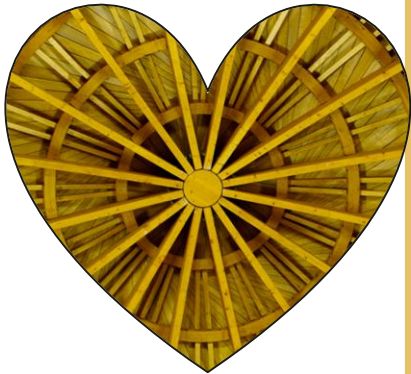
*Collect several types of containers with lids. Hide something in each of them. (Pots with lids, purses or bags, little boxes, sacks, tiny containers, shabby paper bags, etc.) Choose to place in each container or bag something different, and of different worth. (A pair of dirty socks, a flower, a necklace, a piece of fruit, a favourite book, crumpled up old paper, trash, an expensive electronic device, etc.) Do this without the class seeing what you have placed in each bag or container. People have different appearances, but it's what's on the inside, in their heart, that matters to the Lord. Have the children then choose a container or bag, then look inside. Did the shiny silver pot have something old and dirty inside? Or perhaps the tiniest box had a golden necklace!

Let's Talk About It

*There is a Bible verse that says, "Before honour is humility."(Proverbs 15:33) How do you think David felt when he was asked to "just" watch the sheep, while the rest of his family had the rare and special treat of a fancy meal with the famous and respected prophet Samuel? Do you think he was angry, grumbling and letting himself feel left out? When Samuel saw him the thing he noticed right away was his good "countenance"—that's the expression on your face that often displays your thoughts and feelings.

*Was his humility and cheerful faithfulness rewarded in the end? How do you think he then reacted when he was the one chosen and anointed? Did that cause him to get lifted up in pride, feeling better than others? If he had reacted in that way, how would that affect him as a king later on?

A Good Heart



Connect and Communicate

*Finish each other's sentences of praise. One person might say, "I want to praise you Lord for ..." and the person on his right, or whoever he touches or points to would continue, and then start his own praise sentence, "... always loving us, no matter what. And I'm so thankful because..." He then chooses someone else to finish it, and on it goes until all have had a turn or two.

Study Fun

Discover: Where in the world is "Bethlehem" located.

Underline: Where it says, "command" or "word of the Lord".

Define: "Transgress" and "countenance".

I Samuel

13:13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the Lord have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

13:14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the Lord commanded thee.

15:10 Then came the word of the Lord unto Samuel, saying,

15:11 It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the Lord all night.

15:16 Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the Lord hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on.

15:17 And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the Lord anointed thee king over Israel?

15:23b Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

15:24 And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

15:25 Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the Lord.

15:26 And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord hath rejected thee from being king over Israel.

15:27 And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent.

15:28 And Samuel said unto him, The Lord hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.

15:30 Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the Lord thy God.

15:31 So Samuel turned again after Saul; and Saul worshipped the Lord.



15:34 Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul.

15:35 And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the Lord repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.

16:1 And the Lord said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

16:4 And Samuel did that which the Lord spake, and came to Bethlehem.

16:6 And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.

16:7 But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.

16:8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the Lord chosen this.

16:9 Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the Lord chosen this.

16:10 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The Lord hath not chosen these.

16:11 And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.



16:12 And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

Activity

*Think of some of the famous characters in the Bible, or those that wrote whole books in the Bible, (which continues to be the world's bestselling book ever). Were they always famous, important, rich or well-thought of?

Here are some ideas:

--Amos was a humble herdsman. Yet, since he obeyed God's call to be a prophet and was faithful to write God's Words down, his book and name has been known by millions.

--Simon Peter was just a fisherman, but because he chose to follow Jesus and give up his business and source of income to do so, he became one of the most famous disciples, whose witness and letters, and testimonies written about him have changed the world, and helped to shape the lives of countless people.

--Matthew was a despised tax collector, doing one of the worst jobs as far as "being well thought of" is concerned. But he made the choice to take drastic action and have a complete change of life and heart by following Jesus and listening really well to everything He said. The book of Matthew, with many words of Jesus written in it, contains some of the most quoted and read passages down through the centuries.

Can you think of other people that had humble beginnings, but then chose God's way, loved Him and His Word most of all, and became famous and well-known? Or lived an inspiring, fruitful life of faith?



Fountain of Faith

Psalms 32:8

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Psalms 33:18

Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy.



Songs in the Bible

Praise

Psalms 28:7 The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

*Each person finishes the sentence, "The Lord helped me ..."

Singing in Heaven

Revelation

15:2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

15:4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

The Song of Moses (some)

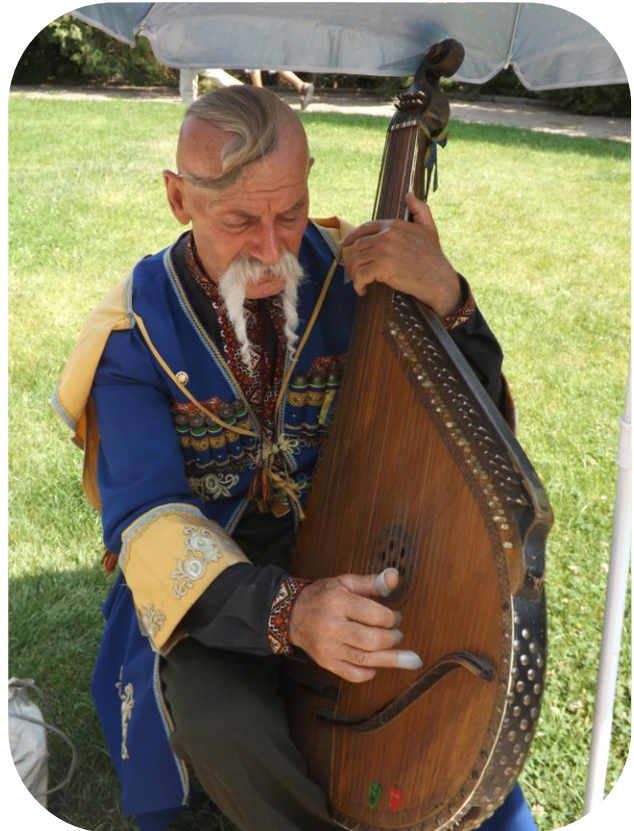
Deuteronomy

32:1 Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

32:2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

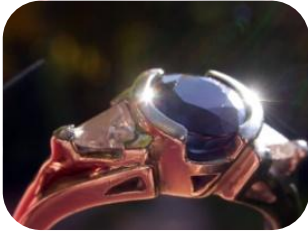
32:3 Because I will publish the name of the Lord: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

32:4 He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.



Activity

*Choose a tune or make up a new one to sing Deuteronomy 32:4 to.



Topic Treasures

—Getting Alone with God

Study Fun

Discover: In these passages some of the places and times that were used for time alone with the Lord.

Underline: Words and phrases that are tips to having good prayer and communication time with the Lord.

Define: "Commune" and "solitary".

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Lamentations 3:25,26 The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.

Daniel 6:10 Daniel ... went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Matthew 14:23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, He was there alone.

Mark 1:35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Psalm 4:4b Commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.

Psalm 5:3 My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up.

Psalm 42:1, 2 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

2 Corinthians 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.



Daily Diary

*King David loved the Lord very much and longed for the time when he could "appear before God". What is something you are looking forward to about seeing Jesus face to face, and talking with Him about?